



Hillcrest Community Civic Association
 "Working together for a better community"
www.HillcrestDC.com

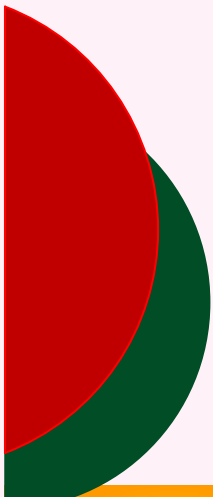
P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895, phone 202-584-2703

DECEMBER 2011

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 10 a.m.

At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, SE

NOTE: Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month.



Come out to the Annual Hillcrest Holiday Party

The board of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association cordially invites you to its annual holiday party at the recreation center. As always, a brief meeting will begin 10 a.m., followed by the celebration. This year, it is not necessary to bring a dish as the party will be catered. However, you must be a member in good standing to participate. Names will be checked at the door.

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY TO YOU FROM THE HCCA BOARD

Any questions about the holiday lunch, contact HCCA Hospitality Chair Yvonne Burke at (202) 584-3018. For issues related to membership, please contact First Vice President Kathy Chamberlain at (202) 581-8272.

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HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

Holiday Crime Tips

The end-of-year holiday season with all its hustle and bustle is here. With all the distractions and activity, we sometimes forget the basics about safety on the streets and at home. Opportunity is the criminal's key to crime. By staying alert and following a few crime prevention tips, you can ensure a holiday season that is happy and safe. Crime prevention involves being aware of our surroundings and potential areas of dan-

ger, thereby closing the criminal's window of opportunity.

Busy shoppers can be targeted for purse snatching and other forms of street robbery. The malls are full of folks with money to spend. As we speed along, focused on getting through our treasure hunt, a criminal can size up a potential victim.

- Outside the mall, stick to well-lit, well-traveled streets, walkways and parking areas for both

walking and parking.

- Stay off the cell phone as you walk through parking lots and streets. It is a distraction that makes you vulnerable to robbers; and the cell phone itself is a tempting target.
- Don't flash large amounts of cash or offer tempting targets for theft such as expensive jewelry or clothing.
- Carry a purse or shoul-

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Any ideas or articles, e-mail the editor, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at hillcrestdc_news_letter@yahoo.com by the 15th. Or follow on Twitter @HillcrestWard7

A Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to the leaf-raking season. No matter how many times we rake and or sweep our little slice of Hillcrest, I'm still slipping on wet leaves. I hope you are doing better with this problem than Earl and I are. It seems to be a no win battle, but we will fight on until the last leaf has fallen gracefully onto our lawn. The leaves falling from the trees denote the beginning of the long holiday season. As I sit to write this letter, Thanksgiving is only a week away. Then, there's Christmas, Earl and my anniversary and New Year's all within a month. I'm usually glad when New Year's Day rolls around so I can sleep in.

So, are you coming out to our holiday party? We will host the HCCA Annual Holiday Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center at 11 a.m. You must be a member in good standing of the association to attend. Not up to date on your dues...no problem, you can pay your 2011 and your 2012 dues on Saturday.

Now is the time to let us know what guest speakers you would like to address the association in 2012. We are starting the year with D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson. Any suggestions on where we should go from there?

Well, neighbors, it's getting late and I have to go to work in the morning, but before I close, Earl and I want to take the time to wish each and everyone of you, a blessed and joyous holiday season!

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Karen

HCCA NEWS AND UPDATES

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der bag close to your body, not dangling by straps. Put a wallet in an inside pocket of your coat or front pants pocket.

- Don't fumble for house or car keys. Have them in your hand, ready to use when you reach the door.
- **ALWAYS** lock your car and residence, even if you are away for only a few moments.
- Do NOT leave valuables—gifts, cell phones, purse or clothing—in open view in your car. Take valuables with you, lock them in your trunk, or cover them in an unobtrusive way.
- Leave lights turned on both inside and outside your residence after dark. Criminals don't like bright places.
- If you will be away from home for several days, make arrangements for someone to pick up

your mail and newspapers. An overstuffed mailbox is a sure sign that no one is home, and burglars are tempted to check those envelopes for monetary holiday gifts.

Thank You, HCCA Environmental Committee Members and Friends of Hillcrest

On Oct. 15, 2011, members of the HCCA Environmental Committee and friends of the Hillcrest community conducted the 2011 Annual Fall Cleanup. We assembled at the East Washington Heights Baptist Church at 8 a.m. There was a chill in the air, but the enthusiasm of the group chased the chill away. Metropolitan Police Department Officer Andre Persaud from the 6th District sub-station joined us and provided his presence and a police cruiser, which was needed for stopping traffic at the intersections to allow for the safe removal of signs from perilous heights on street light poles and trees. Our goal was to

clean both sides of Alabama Avenue to the Senior Wellness Center at 30th and Alabama Avenue, and then focus on the area and streets around the Wellness Center.

Of course, our cleanup area was more extensive than planned, but the removal of litter from the neighborhood streets was very much needed. At the conclusion of the cleanup and to our delight, Elise Nichols, the manager of the Senior Wellness Center, offered the use of the parking lot and grill for our group to have a small picnic. The event was a total success. It would not have been without the following participants: Ms. Nichols, for her hospitality, DPW Supervisor Earl Simpson for his resources, bags and crew, who picked up the cleanup debris; and, the continued support of other residents of the Hillcrest Community such as Janet Keith, Rita Lowery, Sheila Brown, Kenneth Burke, Ruth V. Lewis, John Hawkins, Earl Williams, Mary F. Ross, Mary Ham-

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HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES (Continued from page 2)

mond, Kevin B. Chavous and Carolyn Ray.

Robin Marlin and Kathy Chamberlain, both PSA 606 Block Captains were absent, but they supported the effort by individually cleaning their blocks. I would like to personally thank everyone for making this event a great success!

Phillip Hammond, Coordinator

STEM Night @ Anne Beers

Thursday, December 8, 2011

6-8p.m.

THEME: Medicine-Health-Wellness

Anne Beers invites the public to come and celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the classroom showcasing all grades, pre-school to grade 5.

Observe and interact with investigations about the human body chemistry, healthy eating strategies, fitness and wellness programs, blood pressure screenings and more. The HCCA will be a special guest among others.

The Circulator Bus Comes to Hillcrest, Bah Humbug

By Willard Poteat

Jump for JOY, Hillcrest neighbors—The homeowners in the 2900 block of Denver Street are paying for Your Jubilance. WHY?????????

1. The W3 bus runs down Denver Street;
 2. Delivery vehicles for the Goodhope Marketplace run down Denver Street;
 3. The hours of operation does not, during winter months, include Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays;
 4. Bus Zone Signage (95 feet) prohibits parking 24/7;
 5. Route—Skyland via Barracks Row
 6. Drivers “HANG-OUT” on Denver Street awaiting their shifts;
 7. Denver Street is now a bus stop (Passengers board/disembark at the Denver Street Bus Zone;
 8. Buses also observed on the North side of Denver Street, west of the entrance to the marketplace. (No bus zone, yet)
 9. Denver Street will become a GIGANTIC PARKING LOT FOR NON-RESIDENTS; and,
 10. Our Seniors (Wellness Center) and residents are denied use of the bus zone for parking.
- OH WELL, WHO CARES-----THE BUSES ARE NOT ON YOUR STREET.

The Enlightened Environmentalist

Points On Winter Pruning

December 23 is the first day of winter and March 20 is the beginning of spring. The experts indicate that the job of pruning should be handled before new spring growth begins and after the threat of severe cold has passed.

The most obvious reasons to prune are to reduce the size of a plant, maintain a plant’s shape or to improve the appearance. Pruning to remove dead or deceased wood or thin out the center branches will also keep a plant healthy. Remember that nature is the great pruner. For example, when trees grow too close together, branches die as they compete for sunlight and air flow. Many trees and shrubs should be pruned in winter. These plants are dormant and cut branches will not bleed. For others, winter pruning ensures a great flush of growth and blooming during growing seasons.

In late winter, here is a short list of plants that appreciate a good trim: Crape Myrtle, fruit trees and roses. An example of plants that should not be cut back in the late winter are Forsythia, quince, azaleas, bridal wreath, spirea and other shrubs. Shrubs that bloom in spring should be pruned immediately after spring.

Tool Tips

Get the right tools for the job. Hand pruners are used for general pruning, up to thickness of a finger. Loppers look like long handled heavy duty pruners. They can be used on branches up to the size of a broomstick. Pruning saws are often curved with teeth designed to cut fresh wood. Do not use a regular saw for pruning. For anything larger than 6 inches in diameter, a bow or chain saw should be used. Finally, if you can’t reach a limb from the ground with a pole pruner or the limbs are heavier than you can manage, call a professional.

Courtesy the Environmental and Beautification Committee

Willard Poteat, a former HCCA board member and current member of the Goodhope Marketplace taskforce, lives on the 2900 block of Denver Street, SE.

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 CIVIC ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 30895
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Community Calendar for December

- 3 10 a.m. HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Community Center, 32nd & Denver St., SE
 - 5 7 p.m. Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting
Interim Francis Gregory Library, 2100 36th Place, SE
 - 14 10 a.m. Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting (Safeway Discussions)
Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
 - 15 6 p.m. PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting
East Washington Heights Baptist Church, 2220 Branch Ave., SE
 - 16 7 p.m. ANC 7B Monthly Meeting, Ryland Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE
- Scout meeting every Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m.—Cub Scouts;
 11 a.m.—Boy Scouts at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2011? *Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it is earlier than 2011, please send your payment now.*

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Amount: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cash or Check

New Member Renewal Name & Address in Hillcrest Directory Y or N

Receive the newsletter in the mail Or, read the newsletter on the web (www.HillcrestDC.com)

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): _____

(Visit the website for a list of committees)

Annual membership fee: \$12 per household per calendar year. Make check payable to HCCA, and mail to: Hillcrest Community Civic Association, P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895
 Or pay using a credit card online at www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm